

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02992 210448Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /064 W
-----112253 210654Z /15
R 210417Z DEC 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9452
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2992

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC PFOR CH US
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK'S CALL ON CHAIRMAN OF ALL-CHINA
SPORTS FEDERATION

1. AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK MADE A HALF HOUR COURTESY CALL
ON THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ALL-CHINA SPORTS FEDERATION,
WANG MENG, ON DECEMBER 20. WANG, DRESSED IN PLA GREEN,
LED THE DISCUSSION AND GENERALLY KEPT IT ON A POLITICAL
LEVEL. WANG EMPHASIZED THAT SPORTS SHOULD SERVE
POLITICS, NAMELY THE NORMALIZATION OF PRC-US RELATIONS,
AND THAT CURRENT EXCHANGES SERVE THIS PURPOSE.

2. WANG STRUCK A FAIRLY UPBEAT NOTE IN HIS COMMENTS
ON SINO-US RELATIONS. HE STATED THAT THE US AND
CHINA HAD BEEN FRIENDS ONCE (DURING WWII AND BEFORE)
BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN UNPLEASANT PERIOD. HE
SUGGESTED THAT WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE RATHER THAN THE
PAST AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO RESTORE OUR FRIENDLY
RELATIONS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT THIS MEETING
WITH AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK WAS A GOOD BEGINNING
AND THAT HE LOOKS FORWARD TO FUTURE MEETINGS WITH
THE AMBASSADOR.

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3. WANG SAID THAT HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF A FRIEND
OF THE US. HE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE TWO VERY
AFFECTING CONTACTS HE HAS HAD WITH AMERICANS
IN THE PAST. THE FIRST CONTACT WAS DURING WWII
WHEN AN AMERICAN PILOT PARACHUTED INTO HIS
GUERRILLA BASE. HE BECAME WELL ACQUAINTED WITH
THE AMERICAN AND HELPED HIM

RETURN TO HIS UNIT. THIS CONTACT MADE A VERY POSITIVE IMPRESSION HIM. HIS SECOND CONTACT WAS DURING THE KOREAN WAR WHEN HIS UNIT FOUGHT FOR TWO YEARS OPPOSITE A UNIT COMMANDED BY GENERAL RIDGEWAY NEAR SEOUL. HE HOPED THIS KIND OF CONTACT WOULD NOT BE REPEATED IN THE FUTURE.

4. AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK CONCURRED IN THE VIEW THAT SPORTS EXCHANGES CAN SERVE OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS, CREATING A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO FORWARD MOVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS. HE RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE FEDERATION INVITING AN AMERICAN BASEBALL TEAM TO CHINA. WANG SEEMED INTERESTED BUT SAID ONLY THAT HE WOULD SUBMIT THE IDEA FOR CONSIDERATION.

5. DETAILS TO FOLLOW BY MEMCON.
WOODCOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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